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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/620,598

07/17/2003

Masahito Iga

FSF-03411

9290

21254 7590 10/05/2009
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EXAMINER

YODER III, CHRISS S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/05/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/620,598	Applicant(s) IGA, MASAHI TO	
	Examiner CHRISS S. YODER III	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. **Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Squibbs (US Pub. 2001/0015759).**

2. In regard to **claim 18**, note Squibbs discloses the use of an image searching method comprising the steps of corresponding and storing image data obtained by photographing a subject and a photographing point of the subject (paragraphs 0031-0032), displaying a map including the photographing point of the subject, and displaying, at position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject (paragraphs 0121 and 0127-0128, and figure 17), selecting, on the map, the information representing the photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject (paragraphs 0121 and 0127-0128, and figure 17), and searching, on the basis of the selected information, the image data corresponding to the photographing point (paragraphs 0121 and 0127-0128).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Squibbs (US Patent 6,914,626) in view of Tanaka et al. (US Patent 6,888,565).**

4. In regard to **claim 1**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a display device comprising a display component (column 3, lines 18-37, and figure 3: 5), and a control component for controlling the display component so that a map including a photographing point of a subject is displayed (column 5, lines 36-67, and figure 6: 61 & 64). Therefore, it can be seen that Squibbs fails to explicitly disclose that the control component controls the display component so that information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point.

In analogous art, Tanaka discloses the use of a control component that controls a display so that information representing a photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject is displayed at a position on a map corresponding to the photographing point (column 3, lines 54-62, and figure 2; each of the photographing position icons on the map also indicate the photographing direction and distance).

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Tanaka teaches that the use of a control component that controls a display so that information representing a photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject being displayed at a position on a map corresponding to the photographing point is preferred in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing (column 1, lines 24-28, and column 4, lines 1-5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the primary reference of Squibbs to include the control of the display component so that information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing, as suggested by Tanaka.

5. In regard to **claim 2**, note Squibbs discloses that the control component varies a display mode of the information representing the photographing direction between a case where the subject is photographed and a case where the subject is not photographed (column 13, lines 8-51; for each location, a marker is displayed indicating that either image is already present, or that image data is desired).

6. In regard to **claim 3**, note Squibbs discloses the use of an image information management device comprising a transmitting component for transmitting a map including a photographing point of a subject (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is transmitted from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to the PC 5).

Therefore, it can be seen that Squibbs fails to explicitly disclose that the map includes

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information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject.

In analogous art, Tanaka discloses the use of a map that includes information representing a photographing point of a subject and a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject (column 3, lines 54-62, and figure 2; each of the photographing position icons on the map also indicate the photographing direction and distance). Tanaka teaches that the use of a map that includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject is preferred in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing (column 1, lines 24-28, and column 4, lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the primary reference of Squibbs to include the use of information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject with the map, in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing, as suggested by Tanaka.

7. In regard to **claim 4**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a receiving component for receiving a request to transmit image data of the subject, wherein the transmitting component is configured so as to be able to transmit the image data, and the transmitting component transmits the image data when the transmission request is received by the receiving component (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, the requested image data is transmitted from the camera 3 or from the photo store 7, to the PC 5).

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8. In regard to **claim 5**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a receiving component for receiving image data obtained by photographing the subject and data of the photographing point of the subject (column 3, lines 18-37, and column 10, lines 42-46), and an associating component for associating the image data received by the receiving component with the photographing point on the map on the basis of the data of the photographing point received by the receiving component (column 3, lines 34-37; the image data is associated with the corresponding location on the map for display).

9. In regard to **claim 6**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a receiving component for receiving the information representing the photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject (column 3, lines 18-37, and column 10, lines 42-46; the location information is received to indicate a corresponding position on the map, and based on the combination with Tanaka to display the directional information with the position indicator, the information representing the photographing direction is considered to be received along with the location information), and an associating component for associating the map with the information when the information representing the photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject has been received by the receiving component (column 3, lines 34-37; the location indicator corresponding to each photograph point is associated with its location on the map for display, and based on the combination with Tanaka to display the directional information along with the position indicator, the information representing the photographing direction is considered to be associated with the map as well).

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10. In regard to **claim 7**, note Squibbs discloses the use of an image information management terminal comprising a display component (column 3, lines 18-37, and figure 3: 5), a receiving component for receiving a map including a photographing point of a subject (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is received from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to the PC 5), and a control component for controlling the display component so that the map is displayed, and so that the information representing the photographing location is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing location received by the receiving component (column 5, lines 36-67, and figure 6: 61 & 64). Therefore, it can be seen that Squibbs fails to explicitly disclose that the map includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject, and that the information representing the photographing direction is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing direction received by the receiving component.

In analogous art, Tanaka discloses the use of a map that includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject, and that the information representing the photographing direction is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing direction (column 3, lines 54-62, and figure 2; each of the photographing position icons on the map also indicate the photographing

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direction and distance). Tanaka teaches that the use of a map that includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject, and that the information representing the photographing direction is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing direction is preferred in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing (column 1, lines 24-28, and column 4, lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the primary reference of Squibbs to include the use of a map that includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject, and that the information representing the photographing direction is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing direction, in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing, as suggested by Tanaka.

11. In regard to **claim 8**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a transmitting component for transmitting a request to transmit image data of the subject, wherein the receiving component is configured so as to be able to receive the image data, the receiving component receives the image data transmitted in accordance with the transmission request by the transmitting component, and the control component controls the display component so that an image of the image data received by the receiving component is displayed (column 5, lines 65-67, and column 8, lines 22-44).

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12. In regard to **claim 9**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a transmitting component for transmitting image data obtained by photographing the subject and data of the photographing point of the subject (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is transmitted from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to the PC 5).

13. In regard to **claim 10**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a transmitting component for transmitting information representing the camera's location/state (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is transmitted from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to the PC 5), and Tanaka discloses the use of information representing the camera's location/state that includes a direction from the photographing point to the subject (column 3, lines 54-62, and figures 2 & 7; through the combination of Squibbs with Tanaka, the direction information from Tanaka is considered to be transmitted along with the location information of Squibbs).

14. In regard to **claim 11**, note Tanaka discloses the use of a designating component for designating, on the map displayed by the display component, information representing the photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject (column 3, lines 54-62, and figures 2 & 7), and Squibbs discloses that the transmitting component transmits the information representing the camera's location/state when the information is designated by the designating component (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is transmitted from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to

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the PC 5, and through the combination of Squibbs with Tanaka, the direction information from Tanaka is considered to be transmitted along with the location information of Squibbs).

15. In regard to **claim 12**, note Squibbs discloses the use of an image information management system comprising an image information management device, wherein the image information management device includes a transmitting component for transmitting a map including a photographing point of a subject (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is transmitted from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to the PC 5), and an image information management terminal, wherein the image information management terminal includes a display component (column 3, lines 18-37, and figure 3: 5), a receiving component for receiving the map including the photographing point of the subject (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is received from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to the PC 5), and a control component for controlling the display component so that the map is displayed, and so that the information representing the photographing location is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing location received by the receiving component (column 5, lines 36-67, and figure 6: 61 & 64). Therefore, it can be seen that Squibbs fails to explicitly disclose that the map includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject, and that the

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information representing the photographing direction is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing direction received by the receiving component.

In analogous art, Tanaka discloses the use of a map that includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject, and that the information representing the photographing direction is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing direction (column 3, lines 54-62, and figure 2; each of the photographing position icons on the map also indicate the photographing direction and distance). Tanaka teaches that the use of a map that includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject, and that the information representing the photographing direction is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the photographing direction is preferred in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing (column 1, lines 24-28, and column 4, lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the primary reference of Squibbs to include the use of a map that includes information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject, and that the information representing the photographing direction is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, on the basis of the map and the information representing the

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photographing direction, in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing, as suggested by Tanaka.

16. In regard to **claim 13**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a receiving component for receiving a request to transmit image data of the subject, wherein the transmitting component is configured so as to be able to transmit the image data, and the transmitting component transmits the image data when the transmission request is received by the receiving component (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, the requested image data is transmitted from the camera 3 or from the photo store 7, to the PC 5).

17. In regard to **claim 14**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a receiving component for receiving image data obtained by photographing the subject and data of the photographing point of the subject (column 3, lines 18-37, and column 10, lines 42-46), and an associating component for associating the image data received by the receiving component with the photographing point on the map on the basis of the data of the photographing point received by the receiving component (column 3, lines 34-37; the image data is associated with the corresponding location on the map for display).

18. In regard to **claim 15**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a transmitting component for transmitting a request to transmit image data of the subject, wherein the receiving component is configured so as to be able to receive the image data, the receiving component receives the image data transmitted in accordance with the transmission request by the transmitting component, and the control component

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controls the display component so that an image of the image data received by the receiving component is displayed (column 5, lines 65-67, and column 8, lines 22-44).

19. In regard to **claim 16**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a transmitting component for transmitting image data obtained by photographing the subject and data of the photographing point of the subject (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is transmitted from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to the PC 5).

20. In regard to **claim 17**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a transmitting component for transmitting information representing the camera's location/state (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 6, and column 6, lines 40-67; based on the operations performed, data is transmitted from the camera 3, photo store 7, map store 8, or meta-data database 9, to the PC 5), and Tanaka discloses the use of information representing the camera's location/state that includes a direction from the photographing point to the subject (column 3, lines 54-62, and figures 2 & 7; through the combination of Squibbs with Tanaka, the direction information from Tanaka is considered to be transmitted along with the location information of Squibbs).

21. In regard to **claim 19**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a database construction method comprising the steps of displaying a map in which information representing a photographing point to a subject is displayed at a position thereon corresponding to the photographing point (column 3, lines 18-37, and column 5, lines 34-67, and figure 6), receiving image data corresponding to the information representing the photographic conditions (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 37), and associating and storing the

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image data and the information representing the photographic conditions (column 3, line 18 – column 4, line 37). Therefore, it can be seen that Squibbs fails to explicitly disclose that the photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject is displayed at a position thereon corresponding to the photographing point on the map, and that the photographic condition that is received, associated, and stored includes the photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject.

In analogous art, Tanaka discloses receiving photographic conditions that include information representing the photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject, and the display of this information representing the photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject at a position corresponding to the photographing point on a map (column 3, lines 54-62, and figure 2; each of the photographing position icons on the map also indicate the photographing direction and distance). Tanaka teaches that the use of the photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject being displayed at a position thereon corresponding to the photographing point on the map is preferred in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing (column 1, lines 24-28, and column 4, lines 1-5). And by modifying Squibbs to receive the photographing direction, as suggested by Tanaka, the directional data is considered to be associated and stored with the image data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the primary reference of Squibbs to include receiving photographic conditions that include information representing the photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject, and the display of this information

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representing the photographing direction from a photographing point to a subject at a position corresponding to the photographing point on a map, in order to allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing, as suggested by Tanaka.

22. In regard to **claim 20**, note Squibbs discloses the use of a photographing device comprising a photographing component for photographing a subject and generating image data (column 3, lines 18-37, and figure 3: 3), detection component for detecting photographing point data of a point at which the subject is photographed by the photographing component (column 3, lines 18-37; GPS is used to detect the photographing point), and a storage component for corresponding and storing the image data generated by the photographing component and geographical data detected by the detection component (column 3, lines 18-37; the GPS information is stored with the image data). Therefore, it can be seen that Squibbs fails to explicitly disclose that the detection component detects the directional data representing, by direction, a direction facing the subject from the photographing point, and that the directional data is stored with the image and geographical data.

In analogous art, Tanaka discloses the use of a detection component that detects the directional data representing, by direction, a direction facing the subject from the photographing point (column 3, lines 54-62, and figure 2; each of the photographing position icons on the map also indicate the photographing direction and distance). Tanaka teaches that the use of a detection component that detects the directional data representing, by direction, a direction facing the subject from the photographing point is

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preferred in order to display the detected direction, and allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing (column 1, lines 24-28, and column 4, lines 1-5). And by modifying Squibbs to include the detection of the photographing direction, as suggested by Tanaka, the directional data is considered to be stored with the image and geographical data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the primary reference of Squibbs to include the use controlling the display component so that information representing a photographing direction from the photographing point to the subject is displayed at a position on the map corresponding to the photographing point, in order to display the detected direction, and allow the user to easily understand the viewing area and direction the camera is facing, as suggested by Tanaka.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US006437797B1: note the use of an image file management system that displays image capture locations on a map.

US007453491B2: note the use of an image file management system that displays image capture locations on a map.

US006282362B1: note the use of an image file management system that displays image capture locations on a map.

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US006657661B1: note the use of an image capture device that stores the image capture location and direction along with the image data.

US005713679: note the use of an image file management system that displays image capture locations on a map.

US 20040218894A1: note the use of an image file management system that displays image capture locations on a map.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISS S. YODER III whose telephone number is (571)272-7323. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on (571) 272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lin Ye/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622

/C. S. Y./
Examiner, Art Unit 2622